

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LABOR UNITY

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1. SUMMARY: THE THREE - DAY MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCILS OF THE THREE MAJOR LABOR CONFEDERATIONS ENDED APRIL 18 WITH A VOTE ON THE MAJORITY PROPOSAL FOR LABOR UNITY PREPARED BY CISL CHIEF STORTI. WHILE THE DOCUMENT GAINED A HANDY MAJORITY THANKS TO THE LARGE BLOC OF VOTES FROM THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CGIL, THE VOTING INDICATED THAT STORTI'S SUPPORT IN CISL HAS DIMINISHED TO ABOUT 55 PER CENT WHILE VANNI'S SUPPORT IN UIL HAS INCREASED TO MORE THAN 60 PER CENT. THE NET EFFECT IS THE POSTPONEMENT OF ANY TIMETABLE FOR THE MERGER OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS AND THE STRENGTHENING OF LABOR UNITY OPPONENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE THREE-DAY CONVOCATION OF THE LEADING BODIES OF THE CGIL, CISL AND UIL CONCLUDED APRIL WITH A VOTE ON THREE DOCUMENTS: THE MAJORITY PLAN FOR LABOR UNITY, PREPARED BY CISL SEC GEN
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STORTI; A MOTION BY UIL SEC GEN VANNI WHICH CALLED IN EFFECT

FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE CURRENT, LOOSE FEDERATION OF THE THREE ORGANIZATIONS; AND A DOCUMENT PUT FORWARD BY CISL MINORITY LEADER SARTORI CALLING FOR A "POLITICAL CARTEL" AMONG AUTONOMOUS FEDERATIONS. THERE WERE 323 VOTES FOR THE STORTI DOCUMENT, 55 FOR VANNI, 22 FOR SARTORI, 25 ABSTENTIONS (THE 12 UIL SOCIALISTS LED BY SIMONCINI PLUS THE MARINI-FANTONI CENTRISTS OF CISL) AND 31 ABSENT.

3. AT FIRST GLANCE, THIS MAY APPEAR TO BE AN OVERWHELMING MANDATE FOR UNITY. THE VOTING BEARS CLOSER INSPECTION. KNOWING THAT THE CGIL VOTES IN A BLOC, ONE DEDUCTS 211 (THE SIZE OF THE CGIL GENERAL COUNCIL) FROM 323 WHICH LEAVES 112 IN FAVOR OF THE STORTI PLAN. WHEN ONE FURTHER SUBTRACTS THE 37 UIL SOCIALISTS WHO FAVOR UNITY, THE STORTI PROJECT GOT PERHAPS ONLY 75 OF THE CISL'S 136 VOTES. THIS WORKS OUT TO SOME 55 PER CENT OF THE CISL GENERAL COUNCIL, A CONSIDERABLE DIMINUTION FROM PROPORTIONS ACHIEVED EARLIER IN FAVOR OF LABOR UNITY.

4. THIS DEDUCTIVE ANALYSIS IS NOT PERFECT SINCE, FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AMONG THE 31 ABSENTEES THERE WERE SOME UNITY ADVOCATES. PRESS ACCOUNTS AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT THOSE NOT PRESENT WERE, FOR THE MOST PART, DIPLOMATICALLY ABSENT IN ORDER NOT TO BE FORCED TO DECLARE THEMSELVES ON THE UNITY MATTER. BE THAT AS IT MAY, THERE WERE TWO OTHER FACTORS AT WORK WHICH MILITATED STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF MAXIMIZING THE PRO-UNITY VOTE: 1) THE RE-ERUPTION OF EXTREMIST VIOLENCE IN MILAN AND ELSEWHERE, WHICH WAS LOUDLY PROCLAIMED AS EVIDENCE OF THE NEED FOR LABOR UNITY, AND WHICH HAS CAUSED TOMORROW'S FOUR-HOUR NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO AN ANTI-FASCIST MANIFESTATION, AND 2) THE FACT THAT THE VOTING WAS ON AN OPEN, ROLL-CALL BASIS. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE OUTCOME OF THE VOTING IS REMARKABLE.

IN BRIEF, THE CONCLUSION IS INESCAPABLE THAT THE RESULT WAS DISTINCTLY UNFAVORABLE TO LABOR UNITY PROPONENTS IN GENERAL AND TO CISL CHIEF STORTI IN PARTICULAR. THE OPERATIVE NUMBERS TO BEAR IN MIND ARE THESE: THE CISL REQUIRES A 75 PER CENT VOTE IN ORDER TO DEISSOLVE ITSELF IN THE MERGER PROCESS, AND STORTI NOW COMMANDS ONLY SOME 55 PER CENT OF CISL VOTES; THE UIL REQUIRES A 60 PER CENT VOTE OF ITS CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO MAKE BINDING POLICY AND, WITH THE GROWING DEFECTION FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SOCIALIST FACTION OF THE SIMONCINI DOZEN, THIS 60 PER CENT SEEMS TO BE WELL IN HAND FOR VANNI.

THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS ARE NOW SEPARATELY TO CONSIDER THE STORTI UNITY PROJECT FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTION AS OFFICIAL POLICY OF THE THREE RESPECTIVE CONFEDERATIONS. GIVEN THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, IT APPEARS SAFE TO CONCLUDE THAT THE CHANCES FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF LABOR UNITY THROUGH MERGER HAVE DIMINISHED NOTICEABLY. THE NEXT IMPORTANT EVENT ON THE HORIZON, NO

DOUBT, WILL BE THE OUTCOME OF THE JUNE 15 NATIONWIDE ELECTIONS
FOR REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.BEAUDRY

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